

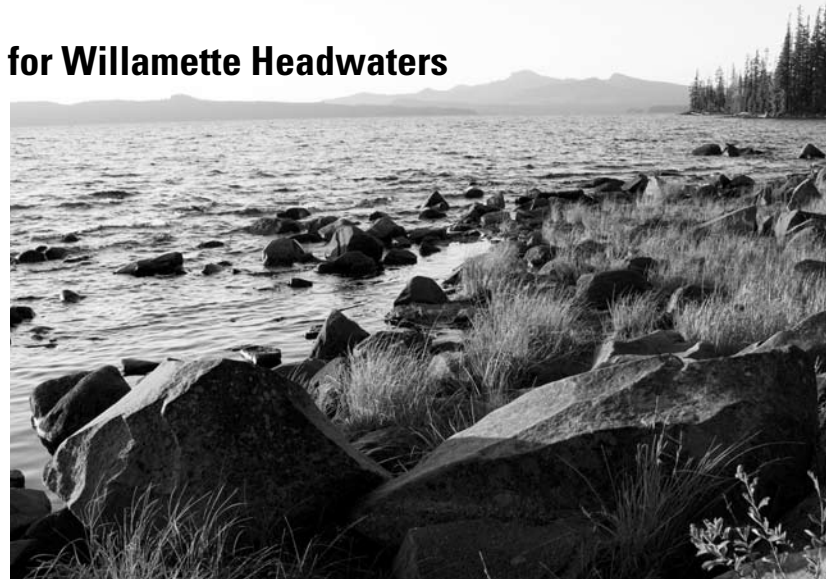
## Non-Motorized Proposal for Willamette Headwaters

This fall, the Oregon State Marine Board started a rulemaking process on an agreement with the US Forest Service to establish a phase out of combustible motors at Waldo Lake. Waldo is a remarkably pristine lake at 5400 feet in the Cascades, southeast of Eugene, that is a key headwater of the Willamette system.

Responding to ecological and aesthetic concerns, the US Forest Service (USFS) spent several years establishing a proposed process for phasing out motorized use at the lake. When the rule was put forward last year, a private citizen sued the Forest Service indicating that while they owned the land around the lake, they didn't own the lake bottom, and therefore had no right to make a rule.

In US District Court, a judge found that USFS needed to do a better job representing its right to regulate motors, but also found that the plaintiff didn't make a case that the state owned the lake bottom—which could have precluded the phase out. Now, the State of Oregon and the US Forest Service can establish an agreement to regulate motors on Waldo. In this case, the Oregon State Marine Board is the State Agency that can make the decision.

Recently the Marine Board has experienced some difficult decisions, keeping in mind that they receive much of their funding from motorized boat registrations. This agency is grappling with how to incorporate non-motorized boating and environmental concerns into the equation. The original proposal for a motorized phase out received a tremendous amount of public support, with public comment to the USFS overwhelmingly in favor of the idea.



Willamette Riverkeeper owns a motorized boat, and believes that one can have safe, clean motorized boating in many places. There are also areas where it just simply makes sense to get away from the pollution and noise of motors in a wilderness environment. The Oregon State Marine Board is seeking comment by December 15 on whether it should ban gas-powered boats and float planes from Waldo Lake. Here's how to comment:

Mail letters to: June LeTarte, OSMB,  
P.O. Box 14145, Salem, OR 97309

E-mail: [osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us](mailto:osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us)

Fax: (503) 378-4597

You may also testify on December 10th, 6 p.m. at the Bend Fire & Rescue Training Center, Classroom 1, 63377 Jamison Road, Bend.



### Superfund: Remedial Investigation Report Issued

A 5.5-mile stretch of Portland Harbor was designated as a federal Superfund site in late 2000. This area has significant pollution from historic and ongoing uses in both the riverside or “upland” areas, and in the river sediments. Under the Superfund law, the US EPA and Oregon DEQ have been working with the “potentially responsible parties” (PRPs)—those entities tied in some way to the pollution) to study and characterize what is there, how it might move, and other technical elements. Several large PRPs known as the Lower Willamette Group (LWG) have been doing most of the work, with several dozen other entities waiting it out.

To date the LWG has utilized contractors, under the watchful eye of the US EPA and DEQ, to determine the scope of the pollution and to gather all of the baseline data from which to develop the actual clean-up of the pollution. This fall, the LWG and EPA released the Remedial Investigation Report. The report provides significant insight into what is in the harbor, including a host of contaminants. Not surprisingly, a historic chemical, PCBs, are most prevalent. PCBs were used in electrical equipment to help control flammability—and though no longer used today—they are widespread in the environment.

Next, the Feasibility Study will be conducted—a process that looks at different options for clean-up of each site. At the conclusion of this phase, the US EPA will provide the Record of Decision, the final clean-up plan for the harbor. Willamette Riverkeeper will be working with the US EPA and DEQ to ensure that all possible options have been reviewed, and that the best choices are being made for the river's long-term health.

*Working to make the Willamette River Watershed healthy for fish and wildlife, and safe for fishing and swimming, forever and for all.*

#### Riverkeeper &

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#### Restoration Manager:

Gerry St. Pierre

#### Outreach & Education

Coordinator: Kate Ross

#### Water Quality Coordinator:

TBA

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Riverscape e-Newsletter



#### Riverscape

Written and produced by  
Willamette Riverkeeper  
Design by BeBop Graphics



Printed on 100% recycled paper.

## From the Riverkeeper

This year has been big for Willamette Riverkeeper. We've made really good progress on a variety of fronts. This summer, the legislature voted to pass SB 596 which bans a flame retardant known as DecaBDE from being sold in Oregon as of January 1, 2011. Willamette Riverkeeper instigated this effort due to our desire to decrease toxics in the Willamette River. Just recently we got a No Wake Zone approved for the Ross Island Lagoon— meaning that there is now one good-sized area in Portland where human-powered craft are on par with motorized boats, in keeping with the 44-acre Natural Area now owned by the City of Portland on Ross Island.

WR also had a fantastic year with our River Discovery Program, getting over 1,100 people on the Willamette River for educational trips, river clean-ups, Paddle Oregon and work parties at restoration sites. This program continues to grow, as more of you take an interest in getting on the water to learn about the river, and simply enjoy its beauty.

We've also continued to press for a comprehensive clean-up of Portland Harbor, and have persisted to implement the Clean Water Act from Eugene to Portland. Habitat Restoration is a program that continues to expand, and our plans for Willamette Mission are just getting underway as we open a major side channel to flow from the mainstem Willamette. Finally, we've continued to push to minimize the impact of the US Army Corps dams in the Willamette system, which greatly constrain the ability of native fish to thrive, and increase their diminished numbers.

We've done this work, in large part, because of your interest and support, and I personally thank you for that. **To help us maintain our programs, please continue to contribute to our cause, or donate to WR for the first time if you never have! It is easy to do, just send in a check in the enclosed remittance form, or go online at [www.willametteriverkeeper.org](http://www.willametteriverkeeper.org) and click Donate Now. It is an easy and secure way to support our efforts with a one-time, or a monthly donation.**

As always, we invite you to join us on the river, and to participate in our volunteer activities and events. Thanks again for your interest in the health of the Willamette River system!

Travis Williams, Riverkeeper & Executive Director



## HAVE YOU HEARD THE E-NEWS?

*Haven't heard from us in a while? That's because we've been on-line!*

In the interest of bringing you more news, updates, and opportunities, we have created a monthly *Riverscape* e-Newsletter! Our e-Newsletter and occasional "action alerts" allow us to keep you better informed, and help you get to know us through images, slideshows, and videos. Building our on-line community allows us to reach more people and be more effective as an organization. In addition, our increased web presence helps us save resources and reduces our printing expenses.

Our e-newsletter is a great way to learn about our monthly River Discovery paddling trips, and to view pictures from past adventures. If you haven't done so already, please join us on-line by entering your e-mail address in the sign up box at [www.willametteriverkeeper.org](http://www.willametteriverkeeper.org).

You may still enjoy printed editions of our *Riverscape* newsletter, which we will continue to publish periodically throughout the year.

## Board Updates



### Roxanne Tenscher

Roxanne is an outdoors expert and river runner. When she is not hiking with her husband, such as on her recent 500-mile trek

along the southern most portion of the Pacific Crest Trail, she can be found paddling in the Portland Metro area. A long-time river advocate, joining the Friends of the River in California in the 1970s, she has been active in river travel ever since. She has devoted much of her time to educating people about how best to appreciate, protect, and enjoy rivers through her volunteer and professional work as an Assistant Manager of REI in Portland. Roxanne will be dedicating time and energy to WR's River Discovery Program. Welcome, Roxanne!

### James Tiefenthaler

James has been a river advocate for years, and is Assistant Manager of Portland's Pearl District REI. James has years of experience in traveling rivers and has participated in many educational efforts related to river paddling, and getting people to experience rivers first-hand through his work at REI, Outward



Bound, and the Washington Water Trails Association. He leads multiple trips, talks for REI about where to paddle in the NW, and has a passion for clean and healthy rivers. James will be working with WR's River Discovery Program. Welcome, James!

### John Cooney

John has a background in biology, and has volunteered as a naturalist on Paddle Oregon for several years. These trips heightened his interest and knowledge of the Willamette and its challenges. John is widely known for his work with Eugene based KLCC Public



Radio, and his popular program "The Natural World." For the last 10 years, John's program has transported listeners to natural areas around the Pacific Northwest through sounds and verbal images, exploring the natural and human history of places close to home. His background as a broadcaster has taught him that education and awareness are effective tools in protecting and restoring the environment. He looks forward to contributing time, energy, and creativity toward this worthy cause!

### Joe Coffman

One of WR's founding board members, Joe is serving one additional board term after a one year hiatus. A dedicated river advocate, he has worked with Willamette River issues for over 10 years. He was the principal author of WR's 2000 toxics report and has dedicated many hours to WR's cause over the years. Joe will serve as WR's Treasurer, and he is also dedicating a significant amount of time incorporating Global Warming into WR's work. We are very appreciative of Joe's commitment to us as he has contributed 10% of his 2009 earnings to WR. Way to go, Joe!



## *Protect and Restore the Willamette, One Micro Brew at a Time!*

Imagine a world where you could help protect water quality in the Willamette River by throwing back a glass of delicious, organic micro brew... and maybe some pizza, too. Well, thanks to Fish Brewing Company and Pizzicato Pizza, wishes do come true!

Please join us as we celebrate the launch of "**Willamette Riverkeeper Paddler Pale Ale**." Each carefully drawn pint of this crisp, organic concoction will support Willamette Riverkeeper and our work to protect and restore the river. A "robustly delightful" ale, it will be available exclusively at most Pizzicato Pizzerias until the spring, when it will be arriving at a pub near you.

In addition to hosting our tap, Pizzicato has generously offered to donate 10% of their sales on December 10th from their newest, sustainably and creatively designed, 7 Corners location to WR!

What better reason to throw a party? As we wrap up the year, we invite you to come and enjoy this exciting occasion with us! Gather your friends and family, and treat your taste buds to the first draft of Willamette Riverkeeper Paddler Pale Ale, complemented by delicious, gourmet pizza.

When: Thursday, December 10th

Where: Pizzicato's at 7 Corners  
(located on 21st and SE Division St., Portland)

When: 6:30pm - 8:30pm\*

\* Can't wait for us? Don't worry, all sales on December 10th will benefit WR, so feel free to stop by the 7 Corners location anytime between 11am - 9pm to enjoy a meal.



## VOLUNTEERING

### Volunteer Spotlight: Bill and Donna Neumann

Willamette Riverkeeper is often the grateful recipient of time, energy, and talent put forth by a host of volunteers that help us protect and restore the river in a variety of ways. In some cases, we are simply overwhelmed by the efforts undertaken on our behalf.



2009 Paddle Oregon.

When Bill and Donna Neumann agreed to drive a 26 foot Ryder Truck to locations unknown, onto questionable roads, then unload some 200 pieces of lumpy luggage in 90 degree heat, all the while maintaining friendly smiles and a sense of humor, we knew that we had found a remarkable couple!

Volunteering as our fearless gear truck drivers for the past 5 years (at least!) of Paddle Oregon, Bill and Donna have become part of the glue that keeps this event running smoothly. While they have enjoyed Paddle Oregon as participants, sensing their extraordinary calm in the face of adversity (no bridge clearance is too low, no pile of luggage is too high), and unwavering patience (“do you know where my bag is? It’s black.”), we managed to charm them into taking on this often challenging role.



2009 Paddle Oregon.

Bill and Donna choose to support WR because of their grandchildren. “We want them to have the same opportunity to enjoy not only the Willamette River, but all of Oregon’s water ways. We believe strongly in [WR’s] goals to preserve and improve water quality and wildlife habitat... Oh, and also the company and food on Paddle Oregon are awesome!”

Always pleasant to be around (so long as you have not packed the kitchen sink), the Neumann’s win our sincere appreciation and admiration. That said, Bill and Donna, what is your availability looking like for next August? !

### Support Willamette Riverkeeper in Costa Rica!



Chestnut-colored  
Woodpecker

For those of you who love the water, fun, and the joy of adventure...

Join Water & Wings this spring! An incredible adventure vacation in Costa Rica, from the Pacific to the Caribbean, you will enjoy impressive mountains, kayaking on lagunas, whitewater rafting, snorkeling, hiking in the jungle, and splashing in warm waterfalls.

This tour is organized by the Interamerican University Studies Institute (IUSI), a non-profit educational exchange with headquarters in Eugene, and is lead by Barbara May, University of Oregon Spanish professor and WR Board President (of Paddle Oregon “Pokey Pod” fame). Accompanied by world-class naturalist Noel Urena Chacon, you will visit incredible places off the beaten path. The excitement is high, relaxation is certain, the group is small, and the fun is guaranteed!

This two-week trek begins in April and is approximately \$3000 per person, including everything (food, gear, boats, travel within the country, lodging, entrance to national parks, etc.) except your plane ticket to and from. A portion of the trip fee is donated to Willamette Riverkeeper so you can have a blast and do something good for OUR river!

We’re looking for a show of interest. If you’re keen on this unique experience, please contact Barbara May by December 15th via e-mail at [bdmay1@comcast.net](mailto:bdmay1@comcast.net). This is an expression of interest, not an obligation to go. Please tell friends and like-minded water enthusiasts. *Thanks!*



## RECREATION



# Paddle Oregon: Trip Report



Thanks to all of you who made Paddle Oregon 2009 a huge success! Willamette Riverkeeper found good company in 120 river-loving enthusiasts who contributed to our 9th annual adventure on the Willamette River last August.

Over the course of five, sun soaked days, we paddled 96 river miles from Marshall Island Access (north of Eugene) to Willamette Mission State Park (north of Salem). Coinciding with one of the hottest weeks of the summer, we all kept cool with frequent swims in the river. On some stretches, paddlers took advantage of the current, and enjoyed some refreshing “rides” floating down the river in their PFDs.

Once again we were pampered by Dave Dalton and his fantastic team from Dalton's Northwest Catering. As we pulled our boats up to camp each afternoon, we were greeted with hors d'oeuvres ranging from fresh fruit and vegetables, shrimp, pâté, cheese plates, and even Alaskan king crab. I'm afraid that for most of us, camp food will never be the same! Apart from being well fed, yoga guru Trudy Toliver, and the ever present massage therapists, ensured that our bodies (not just our bellies) were feeling good.

Other highlights included an evening of music (and some dancing, too!) with Corvallis' favorite The Maharimbass, and a creative presentation by geologist and Oregon Chautauqua lecturer, Janet Brown. Of course, we all delighted in the spontaneous reels performed by fiddler Jenn Huckins and other talented paddling musicians including Russ Woodward, Nancy Henderson, and Travis Williams on their guitars, accompanied by Dave Becket and Jay Hamlin on their harmonious harmonicas!

Our last evening on the river was spent around the campfire, enjoying new and old friends, and nibbling on the freshly harvested Oregon hazelnuts that farmer Roger Fitz generously shared. One final whistle blast from “Commodore Codo” signaled that wonderful week was nearing its end.

Be sure to join us next year, **August 16th–20th 2010**, when we celebrate 10 years of Paddle Oregon! Trip details and registration information will be available on our website this February.



Above: Paddle Oregon 2009 participants.

Above Center: Participants ditch their boats for a refreshing ride in the current.

Above: Putting in at Marshall Island Access.

Right: Craig Sharpe shares a laugh with the dapper Commodore Codo.

Left: Paddlers by day, musicians by night. Sign reads “Playing for Wine.”



## RIVER DISCOVERY

Thanks to your enthusiasm, our River Discovery Program has enjoyed much success this year. We have connected over 1,100 people to the river through paddling adventures. Spanning the valley, our monthly, family friendly, trips are free and open to the community. While many people choose to join us in their own canoes and kayaks, Willamette Riverkeeper is happy to get you on the water in one of our tandem canoes. Through snow, rain, and blazing summer heat, our trips offer a variety of natural perspectives, and provide opportunities to observe, learn, as well as share experiences, information, or in some cases, your lunch!



## RESTORATION

### Making Connections

Oaks Bottom is a 160-acre wetland on the lower Willamette, located in SE Portland, just east of Ross Island. Owned by Portland Parks & Recreation, the refuge contains a large open water reservoir that provides habitat for native and migratory birds. Hiking trails provide excellent bird watching opportunities (over 150 species have been spotted), and a biking trail connects the parking lot to the Springwater Corridor, part of the regional trail system.

In the early 1900s, a berm was constructed to separate the floodplain from the river. A small culvert through the berm provides limited connectivity between the river and the wetland. A project now in the planning stages will replace this small culvert with a larger box culvert, and remove a water control structure. The meandering channel between the culvert and the reservoir will be graded to ensure that 4-10 acres of open water is present during the driest parts of the year. A secondary channel to the north will also be regraded to prevent fish stranding between the pond and the main channel.

This project will restore connectivity between the river and the wetland, and allow the river to naturally control water levels in the floodplain. Removal of invasive vegetation (especially reed canary grass) will allow revegetation with native plants. Collectively, these actions will benefit juvenile salmonids moving towards the Pacific, enhance habitat for native and migratory birds, improve habitat for amphibians and turtles, and enhance the wildlife corridor comprising Oaks Bottom, Ross Island, and Portland's South Riverfront.

Several wildlife viewing platforms will be constructed as part of this project, which is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2011.



Please refer to our website, or join our e-newsletter for upcoming trip listings. Trips are determined based on current river conditions. Be advised that high flows in the winter and spring can be hazardous without the proper experience and knowledge.

Above: Fledgling birder.

Left: Paddlers explore Scappoose Creek in January, 2009.

Below: Members Deborah and Jim Kerr enjoy a warm day in Salem.

### Join us for River Discovery 2010's Inaugural Paddle!

Once again we will begin our year at one of the Northwest's original meeting places:  
**Scappoose Bay.**

Breaking away from the mainstem a few miles before the confluence with the Columbia, Multnomah Channel eventually spills into the low, tidal estuary of Scappoose Bay. The bay is adjacent to Sauvie Island National Wildlife Area. It was here that the great Native American highway, later the Hudson's Bay trail, between the Columbia River and the upper Willamette Valley, had its beginning. Taking advantage of higher water flows, we will explore the Bay's many braided sloughs and back channels, visiting the sagging remains of old wooden ships. Depending on the tides and current, we may reach Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the northernmost tip of Sauvie Island.

**When: Saturday, January 23rd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Where: Scappoose Bay Marina**

You will want to pack a lunch, and dress warm!  
To register contact Kate at 503-223-6418, or [info@willametteriverkeeper.org](mailto:info@willametteriverkeeper.org)





Garlic Mustard rosettes.



Garlic Mustard flower.

### Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Garlic mustard is a weed that was introduced from Europe as a culinary herb. The leaves, especially younger leaves, smell and taste like garlic when crushed or chewed, hence its name.

The plant is a biennial that displaces the native woodland understory. The first-year plants form a low-growing rosette that remains green throughout the winter. In the second year, the plants grow several feet, putting out small white flowers that produce seed pods. The seeds remain viable for 10 years or so.

Garlic mustard can quickly dominate the forest floor. Recent research has shown that garlic mustard produce toxins that harm mycorrhizae—underground fungi that help supply the plant with water and nutrients. By disrupting this relationship, garlic mustard outcompetes the natives and often establishes a monoculture on the forest floor. Trees are also harmed by the loss of mycorrhizae and are more susceptible to disease and grow more slowly as a result.

Garlic mustard is a difficult plant to eradicate once established. New infestations should be removed immediately before they can drop seeds and spread. Established infestations must be removed, and the site cleaned each year to eliminate new plants emerging. Small infestations can be controlled by cutting or pulling. Larger infestations usually require treatment with herbicide.

### Ross Island Work Parties

This summer volunteers from Willamette Riverkeeper, Audubon Society of Portland, Urban Greenspace Institute, and Portland Parks & Recreation spent four Saturday mornings working to remove invasive weeds, pick up trash, and develop a better understanding of the biological inventory on Ross Island.



Ross Island volunteers celebrate after bagging loads of invasive garlic mustard.

Using canoes, Riverkeeper staff led groups from the Portland Boathouse to the island. In June, volunteers pulled garlic mustard, a recent invader to the area that is of much concern to weed control experts. (See sidebar.) In both July and August, several dozen volunteers walked the beach to pick up trash and clear out illegal campsites. In September, volunteers conducted “Bio Blitzes” to identify flora and fauna on the island. Before paddling back, the groups compared notes and observations.

Next year, we are planning to conduct more frequent outings to the island, with a greater range of activities. We’d like to expand the scope of the “Bio Blitzes” and collect data in both the spring and the fall. Over time, this information will help us gauge changes in biodiversity as a response to the restoration efforts on the island.



### Mission Reconnection Delayed

The Willamette Mission Reconnection Project seeks to restore complexity to the river system by reconnecting side channels and floodplains at Willamette Mission State Park to the mainstem Willamette River between river miles 72 and 74.

The project will restore flow through two miles of remnant channel and lake, shrinking the de-watered window from seven months of the year to two. Dry months will be outside of spawning, rearing, and smolt outmigration windows for federal and state listed Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook.

We presented our design to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board’s Technical Review Team. The team’s response was very positive. They liked the modeling and analysis, and agreed with our assessment that limiting the de-watered window to July and August would provide the maximum benefit to salmon.

Unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers informed us after permit applications had been submitted, that they would require complete engineering for *future* phases of the project before they could approve and issue the necessary permits. This requirement has set the project back until summer 2010.

In the meantime we continue to monitor existing conditions, seek additional funds to restore upland areas, and develop the engineering required by the Corps to receive the final permits. We will be holding a series of meetings and open houses this winter for neighbors, park visitors, and other interested parties. We are developing signage and other informational materials to inform visitors about the project, goals, and the natural history of the area.

# The Great Willamette Clean-Up

This past October we introduced an ambitious annual event; the Great Willamette Clean-Up has arrived! This is not your average litter pick up, folks.

With support from community partners such as The Port of Portland, We Love Clean Rivers Inc., Adventures Without Limits, Pacific Northwest Sea Kayaker Meetup group, and Oregon Ocean Paddling Society, we rallied 55 volunteer kayakers and canoeists to tackle trash along four different stretches of the Willamette. That's right, this was a paddling based clean-up effort. And what better time of year to get the job done than when many summer recreationist have retreated indoors, and the river level is low.



Catch of the day in Portland Harbor.



Armed with gloves, biodegradable garbage bags, “nifty nabbers”, and sense of adventure (or foreboding!), groups took to the water at Meldrum Bar Park in Gladstone, the Jefferson St. boat ramp in Milwaukie, Willamette Park in Portland, and Cathedral Park in St. Johns. And what did we find? Well, there was the usual junk such as cigarette butts, beer cans, coffee cups, plastic bottles and bags; but we also found scads of lonely shoes, huge pieces of Styrofoam, sleeping bags, umbrellas, bicycle wheels, rusted car parts, rebar, fencing, garbage cans (strangely), luggage, chairs, sunglasses, tangled fishing line, far too many tires, and the less common plastic fish (definitely invasive), homemade knife, Godzilla, and set of dentures.

Paddlers were resourceful when it came to removing trash. Some secured heavy tires to their decks, others towed large foam blocks behind their boats, and a few decided to “decorate” their boats with their spoils. It didn't take us long to determine that canoes made ideal “garbage barges.” Open canoes, stacked high with water-logged debris, shuttled to and from the dumpster. Teamwork was essential when it came to lugging tires and other items full of sand to their final, and proper, resting place.

Fortunately, the dirty job was overshadowed by our laughter and camaraderie. Just a few hours of work and a lot of enthusiasm yielded terrific results. Rather than feeling dismayed, we all felt hugely satisfied at the site of our brimming dumpsters. In the spirit of fun, all clean-up crews gathered afterwards for brunch.

Help us bring this event river-wide! Inspire a group of refuse rousers on your local stretch of the Willamette next year. Contact [info@willametteriverkeeper.org](mailto:info@willametteriverkeeper.org).



Top Left: Victory Dumpster in Milwaukie.  
Left: Rod Richards gets creative.

## Ross Island Ruling

This fall, the Oregon State Marine Board instituted a No Wake Zone in the Ross Island Lagoon, effective January 1, 2010. This designation came after a tremendous effort by the petitioners—WR, Audubon Society of Portland, the Urban Greenspaces Institute, and the City of Portland. After being turned down in August, the petitioners ramped up the effort to educate the Marine Board about the need for this designation, and ultimately the Board chose to reconsider the issue.

Contrary to staff recommendation, the Board chose not to create a No Wake Zone on the southern half of Holgate Channel. Instead, they are creating an Advisory Group to consider next



steps on Holgate Channel, to be presented to the Marine Board in January. We thank the Marine Board for making a solid step for Ross Island's future! In keeping with our original petition, we will continue our efforts to establish a No Wake Zone in the Holgate Channel.

### Friday, January 1, Ross Island “Hangover” Paddle, Noon to 3 pm.

Join the Friends of Ross Island on a paddle around the island to celebrate the designation of the Ross Island Lagoon! What better way to work off your libations of the previous night with a brisk, refreshing wintertime paddle? Highlights of the trip will be waterfowl, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons.

Bring your own boat; registration is required. Call 503-292-6855 x112.

## RIVER ISSUES

### Stormwater Permits: Critical for Clean Water

While pollution from large pipes is well known—perhaps from those classic images of pipes spewing pollution into the Willamette—what is lesser known is the role of stormwater in pollution. Under the Clean Water Act, facilities that generate runoff from their properties (whether they are from properties that contain organic waste, or properties with runoff coming off of metal being stored on-site) have to limit the pollution that ultimately goes down a stormdrain or other conveyance to our waterways, and frequently monitor their runoff to understand what pollutants it may have.

As you can imagine, with the myriad sites that fit this description, there are a tremendous amount of pollutants that can find their way into local streams and rivers. Because of the pollutants that are found in stormwater, many sites must have a stormwater permit, which is administered under the Federal Clean Water Act, and issued and enforced by the Oregon DEQ.

WR takes these permits seriously, and believes that permit holders must meet the conditions of each permit. We carefully evaluate these permits, and every month we find multiple violations. In many cases, when we contact a violating permit-holder, they work quickly to correct the problem, or to do the required monitoring that may have lapsed. In other cases, they can be more confrontational, and WR sends a 60-day notice to sue under the Clean Water Act.

In the past year, WR has settled multiple violations, and in the process, corrected significant violations of these permits. In addition, we have generated funding for restoration projects and additional water quality monitoring as part of these legal settlements. There are many tools to help ensure that the Willamette gets cleaner, and that we limit the presence of persistent chemicals in its system. WR takes a variety of approaches to get the job done.



An ancient white oak.

### “Where the White Oaks Are”

Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) is often thought of as a magnificent tree that dominates the landscape. While this is true in much of the Willamette Valley, scrubby oak woodlands can also be found scattered on islands near Willamette Falls, with larger oaks grasping onto rocky hillsides nearby.

Fortunately, much of these oak woodlands in the Portland Metro area are on public lands, many of them reachable only by water. Elk Rock, Oak (aka Hogg), Rock, and Little Rock Islands are all perched on basalt flows that rise above the Willamette, which has eroded the softer rock around them. On these relatively dry, rocky soils, oaks grow well. Competition for nutrients leaves the trees short, twisted and gnarly, yet still much taller than the native understory. Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolia*), snowberry (*Albus symphoricarpos*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) dominate the understory, while Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) and scattered Douglas-firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) complete the native overstory.

In addition to these islands, oak woodlands abound above the falls. Canemah Bluff and Rock Island Landing overlook Willamette Narrows from either side of the river. A newly protected oak savannah in West Linn compliments the Camassia Natural Area.

Collectively, the area around Willamette Falls, already rich with public lands along the river, presents unparalleled opportunities to protect and restore rare white oak habitat, to preserve the flyway at the confluences of the Willamette, Clackamas and Tualatin rivers, to protect and study our cultural heritage, and to provide educational and recreational benefits to the public. Riverkeeper will continue to lead paddling trips and volunteer work parties in this area.



## RIVER ISSUES



### Legislature Passes DecaBDE Bill

The 2009 legislative session helped to reduce the amount of toxic chemicals that will enter the Willamette by the passage of SB 596. This bill makes it illegal to sell products that contain DecaBDE, a chemical used to diminish flammability in plastics and some woven products.

Unfortunately, this chemical has shown a tendency to bioaccumulate in the environment, and is increasingly being found in wildlife, such as Peregrine Falcons, and people. Toxicologists are worried about the ability of this chemical to negatively impact a range of species, from the possibility it is carcinogenic, to the potential impact on reproduction.

The risk is too great to not take a precautionary approach and diminish our use of this substance. Because protecting ourselves against fire is critical, WR worked hard to make sure that alternative products are available. The State of Washington passed a similar law in 2007, and their solid research and approach greatly aided our effort here in Oregon.

WR would like to thank our key partner, the Audubon Society of Portland and Bob Sallinger, their Conservation Director, in getting this new State Law passed! Bob worked with Travis extensively to get the word out about this effort, and to educate our lawmakers about the dangers of increasing levels of DecaBDE, and other Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers, in our waterways and air.

We'd also like to thank Senator Mark Hass for his commitment to this issue. Senator Hass is a Champion for Clean Water, and worked hard to ensure that this bill became law. Finally, a big thank to Senator Jackie Dingfelder for going the extra mile to help this effort be successful! Her commitment to this issue was very impressive. The law takes effect in January 2011, and WR will be monitoring its implementation.

Above: Travis Williams was recently honored with the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group's first ever 2009 Columbia River Hero Award in recognition of his work on the Deca-BDE ban, and his commitment to eliminating toxics from the Willamette and Columbia rivers. Congratulations Travis!

Pictured from left to right: Mary Lou Soscia (EPA), our River Hero, and Tony Barber (EPA).

### Water Quality Program Update

As many of you know, our Water Quality Monitoring Program is in transition. Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps Member, Alison Sigler, finished a successful year as Program Coordinator this past August.

Over the years this program has thrived, engaging hundreds of volunteers and alerting WR to water quality issues throughout the valley. Moving forward, WR is hiring a part-time WQ Program Coordinator staff position, a significant development for our organization and the program. Having a permanent staff member retain this position will enhance coherency, and benefit volunteers.

We appreciate your patience and support as we progress towards a stronger Water Quality program. Current volunteers may continue to send their data sheets to [info@willametteriverkeeper.org](mailto:info@willametteriverkeeper.org). For those interested in the program, we expect to resume volunteer recruitment in January.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed your time and effort in behalf of improving water quality in the Willamette River! We invite you to continue to participate with us in this effective program.

Member and Water Quality volunteer John Matzka.



**WE THANK OUR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS\***

**FOUNDATIONS AND TRUSTS**

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Kai Ikaika Paddling Club  
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Lane County Audubon Society  
Macadam Bay Homeowners & Residents Association  
Metro  
Portland Garden Club  
University Of Oregon Health Center  
University of Portland  
Waterkeeper Alliance

**BUSINESS SUPPORT**

Herrera Environmental Consultants  
Nike -  
Employee match on behalf of Steve Young  
OR-NW Cancer Specialists -  
Contribution on behalf of Greg Patton  
Patagonia

**Sea Lions (\$500+)**

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Manfred Wiesel & Sabine Baer  
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(In memoriam of Jack Mishler)  
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**Recurring**

*Please see our website on how to make your own recurring donation that goes to supporting our programs each and every month!*

Martina Akeson  
Karen Garber  
Mike Rosen  
Susan Ruggles

*...everyone has a responsibility to take care of our river and its habitat, fish, and wildlife.*

**PADDLE OREGON PARTICIPANTS:**

Joan Abel	David Cogan	Bob Heimann	Denis McLachlan
Dana Abel	Mary Ann Coyle	Nancy Henderson	Robert Meehan
Peggy Anderson	Marilee Dea	Carollee Howes	Jonathan Mellon
Shari Bandes	Jean DeVenney	Jenn Huckins	Edward Millis
Jacob Bandes-Storch	Gerda Eck	Mert Ingle	Jill Nathman
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Karen Brodwin	Virginia Edwards	Kris Judish	Peter Oehler
Christine Brown	Mathew & Diane Epstein	Mike & Carol Kirwan	Paul & Lila Otto
Janet Brown	Kathy Faust	Scott Lamb	Greg Patton
Allen Burrell	Sharon Fujioka	Patty & Greg Mamula	Cherry Peterson
Pete Carew	William Fulton	Michael Marselle	Gayle Phillips
Dede Chinlund	Susan Greenup	Tamara Mattice	Ben Raker
Kevin Christofferson	Debbie Hanavan	Cynthia McAllister	Edmond Raker
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\*Donations received between 04/01/2009 and 11/17/2009.

While paddling on the river, Travis spotted this diving Bald Eagle.

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## Great Gift Ideas

### Willamette River Field Guide

Written by Riverkeeper and Executive Director Travis Williams, this engaging guide is "packed with 200 miles of adventure from the Cascades to the Columbia." A hybrid of sorts, this guide offers a comprehensive perspective of the river, including wildlife, conservation, ecology, history, and recreation opportunities.

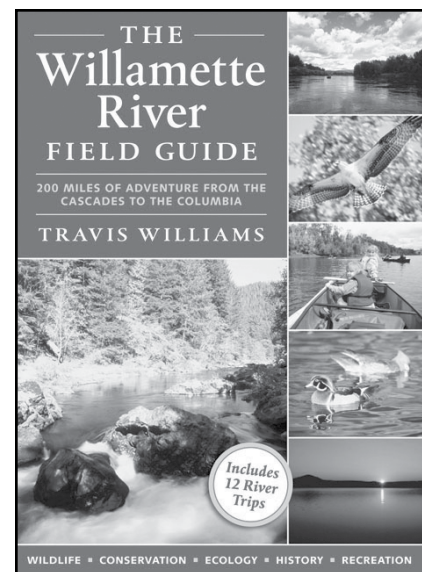
Stop by our office today (1515 SE Water Ave, Portland) and purchase your copy of this unique and fascinating field guide! Books are available for \$24.95, and proceeds will support Willamette Riverkeeper.

### New Willamette Riverkeeper T-Shirt Coming in January!

The sensational team at [meatisgoodforyou.com](http://meatisgoodforyou.com) is donating their creativity to design an eco-friendly t-shirt for VWR! Visit our website for details. [www.willametteriverkeeper.org](http://www.willametteriverkeeper.org)

### Our Favorite

Consider the gift that keeps on giving—MEMBERSHIP! Make your donation today, by mail or on-line, it's easy! As a member supported organization, your gift enables us to continue our work on behalf of our wonderful river.



**Donate Today!**